

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01
MMO-04 CU-04 /087 W
-----201704Z 117185 /43

O R 201606Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 843
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION SINAI
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS CAIRO 1160

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS EG
SUBJ: MEDIA COVERAGE OF CAIRO RIOTS

REF: CAIRO 1159

1. LOCAL COVERAGE REMARKABLE IN TOW RESPECTS (A) THROUGHOUT
CRISIS MEDIA HAS REPORTED GORY DETAILS OF RIOTS, COMPLETE WITH
PHOTOS AND TV COVERAGE; AND (B) EDITORIALS JANUARY 20 DO NOT
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DENY, BUT NEITHER DO THEY SUPPORT, GOE CONTENTION THAT "COMMUNISTS
AND SABOTEURS" RESPONSIBLE FOR RIOTING. FULL COVERAGE (AHAM
JANUARY 20 FRONT PAGE AND PRIME TIME TV NEWS JANUARY 19,
CARRIED PHOTOS OF BURNING TRAMWAY) VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED IN
ARAB WORLD, WHERE GOVERNMENTS PRONE TO SWEEP SUCH EVENTS UNDER
RUG OF SILENCE.

2. ALTHOUGH EDITORIALS, PARTICULARLY IN RIGHTIST AKHBAR, HINT THAT RIOTS RESULT OF CONSPIRACY OF OPPOSITION ELEMENTS ORGANIZED DURING SEPTEMBER 1976 PRESIDENTIAL REFERENDUM, GENERAL THEME IS THAT DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS EXIST TO AIR GRIEVANCES SUCH AS PRICING COMPLAINTS; DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY HURTS ENTIRE NATION. SOME LIP SERVICE GIVEN, AGAIN IN AKHBAR, TO ECONOMIC NECESSITY FOR REDUCTION OF COMMODITY SUBSIDIES. MANY EDITORIALISTS ECHO OPINIONS OF HIGHLY RESPECTED AUTHOR TAWFIQ AL-HAKIM IN AHRAH THAT EGYPTIAN PEOPLE SIMPLY CANNOT ENDURE HIGHER PRICES, DEMONSTRATIONS WERE SPONTANEOUS EXPRESSION OF DESPERATION, EGYPT HAS GONE BANKRUPT IN DEFENSE OF ARAB NATION AND IT NOW TIME FOR WEALTHY ARAB STATES "TO SHOULDERS THEIR HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY IN HELPING EGYPT WITH ITS ECONOMIC BURDENS." (COMMENT: THIS THEME LIKELY TO GET INCREASING EDITORIAL PLAY DURING COMING DAYS.) AKHBAR COLUMNIST HAMAMSI BLAMES ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ON "ONE MAN RULE" (NASSER'S) OVER LONG PERIOD.

3. THE PRESIDENTS OF SYNDICATES OF LAWYERS, JOURNALISTS, TEACHERS, AGRONOMISTS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY CALLING ON THE MASSES TO ADHERE TO LEGALITY AND OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO STRIKE AT SUPREMACY OF LAW OR TO CAUSE DAMAGE TO LIFE OR PROPERTY. EGYPTIAN STUDENTS UNION ISSUED SIMILAR STATEMENT.

4. GENERAL EDITORIAL ASSUMPTION IS THAT GOE PRICE PACKAGE WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED, BUT NO DIRECT CRITICISM OF GOE HANDLING OF PRICE POLICY HAS YET APPEARED AND AS YET THERE NO APPARENT ATTEMPT TO FIND SCAPEGOATS WITHIN GOE. AKHBAR UNCLASSIFIED

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CRITICIZES INTERIOR MINISTRY HANDLING OF DEMONSTRATIONS ON JANUARY 18: IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLEAR TO SECURITY FORCES AT OUTSET THAT CONSPIRACY EXISTED AND LENIENT GOE POSTURE DURING EARLY DEMONSTRATIONS ALLOWED SITUATION TO GET OUT OF HAND WHEN VIOLENCE STARTED.

5. EVENING OF JANUARY 19 GOE PUT MINISTER OF WAQFS SHA'RAWI ("THE GOLDEN VOICED IMAM") ON TV FOR SERMON ON IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL OBEDIENCE AND DENUNCIATION OF "CRIMINAL ELEMENTS". SHAYKH OF AL AZHAR ISSUED STATEMENT STRESSING SAME THEME. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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